

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the following paragraph beginning on page 38 at line 1 and ending at line 10:

Figure 3a depicts the critical residues of the P6 region of the Group I ribozyme joined to the anti-theophylline aptamer by a short randomized region to generate a pool of aptazymes of the present invention. The residues shown in bold in Fig. [[4]]3a are the P6 critical residues, and the faded residues shown in Fig. [[4]]3a are the anti-theophylline aptamer. The randomized regions are designated in Fig. [[4]]3a as "N1-4". Approximately 40 random sequence residues are introduced into the N1-4 region of the construct to synthesize a pool of aptazymes, referred to herein as a communication module pool.